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Lunesdale Rural District Council

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# REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1960



Lunesdale Rural District Council

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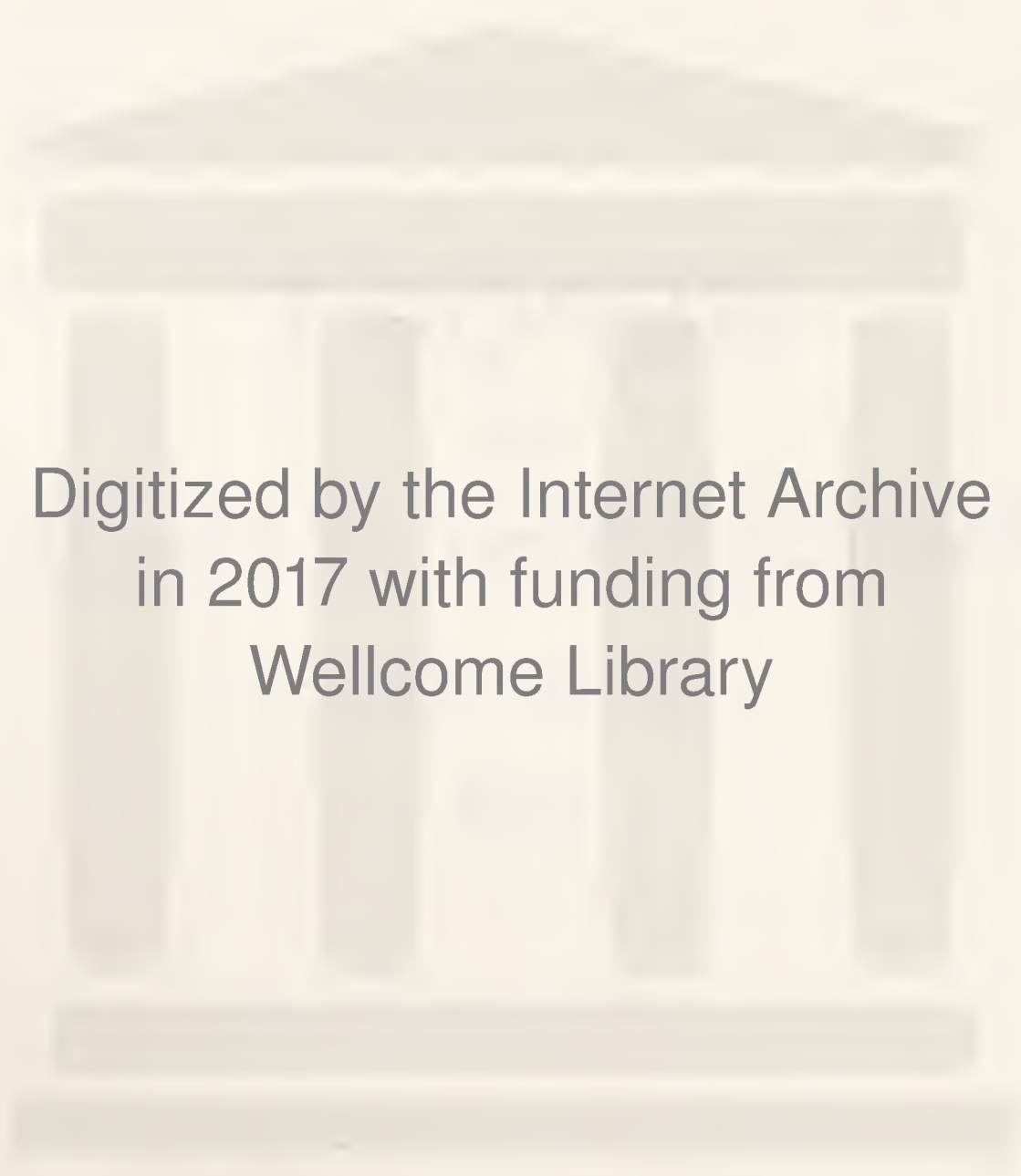
# REPORT

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## *Medical Officer of Health:*

R. W. FARQUHAR, B.SC. (Agr.), M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

## *Public Health Inspector, Engineer and Surveyor:*

A. WARBURTON



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# ANNUAL REPORT

## OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

### FOR THE YEAR 1960

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Lunesdale Rural District Council:*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health, sanitary conditions and circumstances of the Lunesdale Rural District in respect of the year ending 31st December, 1960.

The estimated population at mid-year <sup>1960</sup>~~1959~~ was 7,970, an increase of 310 on the previous year. The figure at the 1951 census was 7,351, so that the total increase in population since then amounts to 619 or 8.4 per cent.

There were 132 live births equivalent to an adjusted birth rate of 16.9 per 1,000 population, the comparable rates for England and Wales and the Administrative County being 17.1 and 17.2 respectively.

Deaths from all causes totalled 86, a decrease of 28 from the 1959 figure. The adjusted death rate was 10.7 per 1,000 population which may be compared with the national rate of 11.5 and the county rate of 13.8. The most common cause of death was "coronary disease, angina," which accounted for nearly one-quarter of the total.

Two infant deaths occurred, both within one week of birth.

The incidence of infectious diseases was low during 1960 and the general health of the inhabitants remained satisfactory throughout the year.

The progress made in recent years in providing modern sewerage and sewage disposal systems in rural areas continues. In reporting on the sanitary circumstances of the District your Public Health Inspector and Surveyor has drawn attention to two further schemes which, when brought into operation should provide the villages of Whittington and Wray with sewers and modern disposal facilities.

It should be noted, however, that 1,114 persons living in 328 houses are dependent on private water supplies which are untreated, and, furthermore, approximately 1,800 people are still living in 607 houses which do not have a water carriage system for disposal of waste matter. Even if the most isolated houses and farms are disregarded it will be apparent that there is still a need for further development of water supplies and sewerage in rural areas.

The erection of two new schools at Hornby and Tatham Fells and the improvements and additions to the existing schools at Leck and Arkholme have added to the total number of schools in the District which can now claim to provide adequate and up-to-date facilities in the way of heating, lighting, toilet and sanitary arrangements.

One hundred and forty-five new houses were completed in 1960 of which 107 were built by private enterprise. Improvement schemes qualifying for substantial grants were completed in respect of a further 35 premises and, altogether, since 1950, a total of nearly 150 older houses have been preserved and modernised in this way.

In conclusion, I wish to express to the members of the Public Health Committee my appreciation of the support and encouragement given to the officers of the Health Department during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. FARQUHAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS  
OF THE AREA



## GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

AREA of the District (Acres)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76,267
POPULATION (Census 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,351
POPULATION (Registrar General's Estimate mid/60)	...						7,970
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1931)	...	...					1,633
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1951 Census)...							2,091
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1960)	...	...					2,688
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSE (1960)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.0
NUMBER OF HOUSES PER ACRE (1960)	...	...	...				0.03
NUMBER OF PERSONS PER ACRE (1960)	...	...					0.1
RATEABLE VALUE (at 31st December, 1960)	...						£110,052
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE (at 31st December, 1960)	...	...	...	...	...		£380

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### SOCIAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF INHABITANTS.

The social conditions of the District are reasonably satisfactory and the chief occupations of the inhabitants are :—

**Agriculture.**

**Manufacture of Textiles (Cotton and Artificial Silk).**

**Lime Stone Quarrying.**

**Brick manufacture.**

There is no unemployment in the District.



# SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1960

<i>Live Births</i>	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate... ..	65	62	127
Illegitimate ... ..	3	2	5
	68	64	132
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population ... ..			16.6
Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 population ... ..			16.9
Proportion (per cent) of illegitimate live births to total live births ... ..			3.8

## *Still Births*

Number registered ... ..	1	2	3
Still-birth rate per 1,000 total births			22.2
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS ... ..	69	66	135

## *Infant Deaths*

Total infant deaths (under 1 year)...	2	0	2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births			15.2
Total infant deaths (under 4 weeks)	2	0	2
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ... ..			15.2
Total infant deaths (under 1 week)	2	0	2
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ... ..			15.2
STILL BIRTHS & DEATHS UNDER 1 WK.	31	2	53
Peri-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births... ..			37.0
DEATHS FROM MATERNAL CAUSES ... ..			Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... ..			Nil
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES ... ..	45	41	86
Crude death rate per 1,000 population			10.8
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 popn.			10.7

## *Deaths from Certain Specified Diseases*

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 population
Cancer (all forms) ... ..	18	2.265
Respiratory Tuberculosis ... ..	0	0

**TABLE SHOWING CLASSIFICATION OF  
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1960.**

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, other ... ..	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease ... ..	—	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
Whooping Cough... ..	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections ... ..	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	2	3	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	4	10
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	—	—	—
Diabetes ... ..	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	6	8	14
Coronary disease, angina ... ..	12	8	20
Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	—	3	3
Other heart disease ... ..	5	5	10
Other circulatory disease ... ..	2	2	4
Influenza ... ..	—	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	1	—	1
Bronchitis ... ..	—	—	—
Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	—	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	—	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea... ..	—	2	2
Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	—	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	—	—	—
Congenital malformations ... ..	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	4	1	5
Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	3	—	3
All other accidents ... ..	2	1	3
Suicide ... ..	1	—	1
Homicide and operations of war... ..	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES ...</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>86</b>

# COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1960 AND THE PERIOD 1955—1959

YEAR	Live births		Deaths (all causes)		Still births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	Total		Neo-natal	
									No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
1960 ... ..	132	16.6*	86	10.8*	2	22.2	Nil.	Nil.	2	15.2	2	15.2
1959 ... ..	121	15.8	114	14.9	3	24.2	Nil.	Nil.	4	33.1	3	24.8
1958 ... ..	121	16.3	87	11.7	1	8.2	Nil.	Nil.	4	33.1	4	33.1
1957 ... ..	104	14.2	94	12.9	1	10	Nil.	Nil.	1	10	1	10
1956 ... ..	105	14.5	101	13.9	2	19	Nil.	Nil.	2	19	1	10
1955 ... ..	108	14.9	83	11.5	1	9	Nil.	Nil.	1	9	1	9
AVERAGE 5 yrs 1955-1959	—	15.1	—	12.9	—	14.0	—	—	—	20.8	—	17.3

\* Adjusted { live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.02) = 16.9 per 1,000  
death-rate (comparability factor, 0.99) = 10.7 per 1,000



GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES  
FOR THE AREA.



# **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.**

## **Ambulance Service**

Lancaster Ambulance Station. Telephone Lancaster 3311.

## **Care of Children—Children Act, 1948.**

No 12 Area Children's Committee, Lancashire County Council.  
Area Children's Officer : Miss F. M. Jay, B.A., 35A, China Street,  
Lancaster. Telephone 3020.

## **Clinics.**

### **1. CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.**

- (a) Hornby, Village Institute, alternate Thursdays, 2 to 4 p.m.
- (b) Caton, Institute, alternate Wednesdays, 2 to 4 p.m.
- (c) Halton, Congregational Church Hall, alternate Wednesdays, 2 to 4 p.m. (alternating with Caton).
- (d) Carnforth, Market Street, Every Tuesday, 2 to 4 p.m.

### **2. DENTAL.**

- (a) Market Street, Carnforth : Every Thursday, by arrangement.
- (b) Ashton Road Clinic, Lancaster : Daily, by arrangement.

### **3. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.**

- (a) Protection against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis, smallpox and tuberculosis can be provided free of charge at Child Welfare Centres within the district. Appointments arranged as required.
- (b) The same services can also be provided free by the General Medical Practitioners in the area.

### **4. OPHTHALMIC.**

Market Street, Carnforth : Alternate Wednesday mornings.

### **5. ORTHOPAEDIC.**

Ashton Road Clinic, Lancaster : By arrangement.

### **6. SCHOOL HEALTH AND MINOR AILMENTS.**

Market Street, Carnforth : Friday mornings, 9-30—11-30 a.m.

## **7. SPEECH THERAPY.**

Ryelands House, Lancaster : Tuesdays and Wednesdays, by appointment.

### **Convalescence**

Arrangements can be made through the Divisional Health Office, Regent Street, Lancaster, for the admission of children and adults to convalescent or recuperative homes. This service is not normally free of charge.

### **Health Visiting Service**

Full time nurses are employed in the area by the Lancashire County Council to carry out duties as health visitors and school nurses.

### **Home Help Service**

Home Helps resident within the Lunesdale District are available to provide help in the home for persons who are incapacitated by illness, old age and infirmity, confinement, etc. Those who can afford to pay for this service are required to do so according to their means.

### **Home Nursing and Midwifery**

Full time nurse/midwives, who combine the duties of district nursing and domiciliary midwifery, are available within the District as follows :—

Caton : “ Milford,” Brookhouse Road, Telephone Caton 192.

Hornby : 2, Robin Croft, Gressingham, Telephone Hornby 307.

### **Laboratory Service**

Samples of water, milk and specimens in connection with infectious diseases are dealt with at the Public Health Laboratory at Preston Royal Infirmary. Transport of samples to Preston is carried out by agreement with the Public Health Department, Lancaster City Corporation.

Samples of water for chemical analysis are sent to the Public Analyst at County Hall, Preston.

### **Mental Health Service**

Medical Officers on the Divisional Health staff are responsible for recommending children found to be unsuitable for education at school for suitable training and a Junior Training Centre for such children is available in Lancaster. Mental Welfare Officers are responsible for the supervision of the mentally subnormal living in the community. The treatment and admission to hospital of the mentally

ill is mainly arranged informally and the Mental Welfare Officers are now more concerned with the social needs and after-care of discharged patients in co-operation with general practitioners and consultant psychiatrists.

## **Welfare Services**

The following Welfare Services are provided by the Lancashire County Council and are administered by Divisional Health Committee No. 2.

### **(1) RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION**

For elderly persons in need of care and attention not otherwise available to them, permanent accommodation is provided in the following Homes for the Aged : Dolphinlee, Fair Elms and The Laurels at Lancaster; the Empress at Morecambe; Moor Platt and the Hermitage at Caton. Short term care for two weeks is also available in certain circumstances.

### **(2) CARE OF AGED PERSONS IN THEIR OWN HOMES**

The domiciliary services provided by the County Council have been expanded, where necessary, so as to provide adequate home nursing, help in the home and general support in conjunction with local voluntary organisations, to enable old people to continue to live in their own homes. A laundry service and a free chiropody service is also available.

### **(3) HANDICAPPED PERSONS**

Registers are maintained for the blind and the deaf for whom certain welfare services are made available through the agency of a voluntary organisation. Other classes of handicapped persons, including cripples, epileptics and spastics are provided with occupational therapy, chiropody, transport to social centres, holidays, etc.

### **(4) HOMES FOR DISABLED AND FOR OLD PERSONS**

There are 7 homes of this nature in the division, all managed by voluntary bodies or private individuals. These Homes are registered and inspected regularly by the Divisional Medical Staff.





PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.





# NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

## CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1960.

Diseases	Total Cases	Age Period — Years											
		0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 and over	Age Un-known
Scarlet Fever	8	—	—	—	1	1	5	—	—	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	36	1	2	3	6	4	20	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis, Non Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	6	1	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	5	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Respiratory	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Total Cases..	62	3	5	3	8	5	26	1	2	5	3	1	—

## TUBERCULOSIS—1960

Age Groups.	Notifications.				Deaths.	
	New Cases.		Inward Transfer.			
	Respiratory	Other Forms.	Respiratory	Other Forms.	Respiratory	Other Forms.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5— ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
10— ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
15— ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
20— ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
25— ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—
35— ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
45— ... ..	2	—	1	—	—	—
55— ... ..	1	—	1	—	—	—
65 and Over	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3	—	3	—	—	—

### TOTAL INCIDENCE

Notifications of infectious disease in 1960 totalled 62 as against 162 in 1959.

### SCARLET FEVER AND DIPHTHERIA

Eight cases of scarlet fever were notified compared with 24 in the previous year. The last case of diphtheria notified in the district was in 1947.

Memories of this once virulent and often fatal disease are fading and it remains difficult to maintain an adequate level of immunity in the population because far too many young parents fail to ensure that their children receive protection by means of active immunisation.

Immunisation is a free service, available either from the family doctor, through school clinics, or at child welfare centres. Under the present immunisation scheme facilities are provided for protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, whereby inoculations may be given against diphtheria or whooping cough separately, or together, or in further combination with protection against tetanus.

The following table shows the number of Lunesdale children immunised during 1956 - 1960 against each of these three diseases.

## IMMUNISATION CARRIED OUT 1956 - 1960

Number of individuals who completed a full course of primary immunisation									
	Diphtheria			Whooping Cough			Tetanus		
Age Groups	0-4	5-14	Total	0-4	5-14	Total	0-4	5-14	Total
1960	141	10	151	136	8	144	136	9	145
1959	116	7	123	115	7	122	104	6	120
1958	105	5	110	107	4	111	105	4	109
1957	92	6	98	88	1	89	72	1	73
1956	70	11	81	67	3	70	42	1	43

Number of individuals who were given a re-inforcement injection									
Age Groups	Diphtheria All ages		Whooping Cough All ages		Tetanus All ages				
1960	162		10		24				
1959	155		18		10				
1958	125		26		8				
1957	155		20		1				
1956	113		3		2				

### POLIOMYELITIS

No notifications of poliomyelitis were received during the year.

### TUBERCULOSIS

Three new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified in 1960. No deaths from this disease were recorded. Mortality from all forms of tuberculosis continues to decline throughout the country as a whole, particularly within the last decade.

### MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

In 1959 notifications of measles totalled 125; in 1960 there were no cases. Whooping cough on the other hand increased from 4 cases in 1959 to 36 in 1960.



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES  
OF THE AREA.





## WATER SUPPLY

Bearing in mind the large area and scattered nature of the properties in the District, it can be said that so far as the domestic water supply in the area is concerned, the supplies are reasonably satisfactory; nearly 80 per cent. of the houses are connected to the Council's mains. The remote parts of the parishes of Tatham and Quernmore are still to be provided for and owing to their high-lying position it will be found economically impossible for mains to be laid to the majority of these properties, mostly farms, already provided with their own private supplies.

These private supplies, from springs and water courses near the farms are generally piped into the houses but during exceptionally dry seasons, they cease to function and farmers have difficulty in obtaining sufficient water for both domestic use and the watering of stock. Where milk production is carried out, a high standard of purity is demanded by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Milk Advisory Officers regularly submit samples of such water for analysis.

The chief source of supply passing to householders in the area is obtained in bulk from the Manchester Corporation's Thirlmere Aqueduct and four main connections are used for this purpose, these being used to serve properties in the parishes of :—

- (1) *Regional Scheme* : Arkholme, Whittington, Gressingham, Aughton, Melling, Cantsfield, Tunstall, Burrow, Leck, Ireby, Wennington and Tatham.
- (2) *Borwick* : which also provides a supply into parts of the Lancaster Rural District.
- (3) Nether Kellet and Over Kellet.
- (4) Halton.

A fifth connection is also made at Caton. Until recently this was only brought into service in times of emergency but owing to the recent housing development, the Council's Caton supply has now to be augmented almost continually from the aqueduct.

Two local schemes known as the Hornby Castle Supply and the Caton Scheme are under the direct management of the Council. Details of these have been given in previous reports and it is to be regretted that an application for loan sanction for improving the Caton supply was rejected by the Ministry in the Spring of the year. The intended works comprised a new filter, chlorinator and dechlorinator at an estimated cost of almost £3,000, the suggested work being necessary following serious complaints of dirty water from householders in the Caton area.

By an Act of Parliament, the Lancaster Corporation has power to supply water to properties in the Quernmore and Halton parishes and approximately 75 houses are so served. As some of these properties are above the filter-houses, the water is untreated.

New works undertaken during the year included the extension of mains to serve the hamlet of Lowgill, a small community of eight houses and farms on Tatham Fells. The project came into being following the Lancashire County Education Authority's decision to erect a new school near Lowgill and a water supply to the school had to be provided.

In conjunction with the County Architect's Department, a bore-hole approximately 220 feet in depth was drilled and the water, after filtration and chlorination is pumped to a small service reservoir of 2,500 gallons capacity above the village. The scheme had barely been put into operation at the end of the year and the school premises were not occupied until after the Christmas holidays.

Set out below is a table giving estimates of the number of properties in the various parishes receiving water from the Council's mains and private supplies in the District.

**Water Supplies to Houses in the District:**

Parish	From Public Mains		Private Supplies	
	No. of Houses	Population Served	No. of Houses.	Population Served
Arkholme-with-Cawood ...	67	180	21	75
Borwick ... ..	46	130	4	16
Burrow-with-Burrow ...	44	125	6	15
Cantsfield ... ..	21	74	1	5
Caton-with-Littledale ...	617	1,850	41	126
Claughton ... ..	36	100	3	12
Gressingham ... ..	46	123	2	8
Halton-with-Aughton ...	459	1,520	5	16
Hornby-with-Farleton ...	158	445	4	14
Ireby ... ..	17	54	4	15
Nether Kellet ... ..	97	310	3	8
Over Kellet ... ..	142	462	14	50
Leck ... ..	54	165	6	20
Melling-with-Wrayton ...	65	206	—	—
Quernmore ... ..	87	290	87	280
Roeburndale ... ..	—	—	21	80
Tatham ... ..	55	181	59	209
Tunstall ... ..	28	70	5	15
Wennington ... ..	41	136	1	4
Whittington ... ..	81	238	19	56
Wray-with-Botton ... ..	125	372	22	90
Total Whole District ...	2,286	7,031	328	1,114



## Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies

From time to time, samples of water from various sources are collected for bacteriological examination. These specimens are delivered to the Pathology Department of the Royal Infirmary, Preston, by an arrangement with the Public Health Department of the Lancaster Corporation.

Details of the reports on the samples are as follows :—

(a)	<i>Raw Water</i>			
	No of specimens submitted	...	...	2
	No. found to be satisfactory	...	...	1
	No. found to be unsatisfactory	...	...	1
(b)	<i>Treated Water</i>			
	No. of specimens submitted	...	...	28
	No. found to be satisfactory	...	...	25
	No. found to be unsatisfactory	...	...	3

The receipt of an unsatisfactory report on public supplies is followed by a systematic flushing of the mains on the supply affected and the chlorine dosage is increased on the two supplies at Caton and Hornby.

Owners of private supplies are notified of all results and advised as to the possible source of pollution and the action deemed necessary where an unfavourable report is given.

## Chemical Analysis

Water for chemical analysis is sent to the County Analyst at Preston and two such specimens were submitted during the year. These were from the Hornby and Caton supplies and were similar in all respects to samples submitted in previous years.

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Sewerage and drainage facilities have been described in previous reports and conditions throughout the District are well known by members of the Council and it is not proposed to give further details in this report.

Five new schemes have been provided during the past seven or eight years and the treatment works appear to be working to the standard required by the Lancashire River Board.

A combined surface and foul water scheme for the village of Whittington was submitted to the Ministry early in the year and an informal enquiry was held in August. Unfortunately, the scheme was returned for amendment to provide a foul system only and the alterations had not been completed at the end of the year.

The village of Wray also requires a sewage scheme and practically all details are now completed for the data to be forwarded to the Ministry for approval and loan sanction.

Where no sewers are available in other villages and on farms and other isolated properties, small private septic tanks are still being brought into use but the question of maintenance is one on which owners continue to have difficulty owing to the nature of the work involved.

## SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

An estimate is given below of the type of sanitary accommodation available at properties in the district at the end of the year :—

Number of Pail Closets ... ..	55
Number of Privy Middens ... ..	320
Number of Closets attached ... ..	400
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System...	2081
Number of Fresh Water Closets ... ..	2550
Number of Moveable Ashbins ... ..	3035

### Conversions during 1960

Number of Privy Closets to Fresh Water Closets .	30
Number of Fixed Receptacles to Moveable Ashbins	22

The alteration of the old type convenience depends principally on the provision of sewers in the villages, but in isolated houses the new Standard Improvement Grant will enable owners to convert privies to water closets and it is hoped that progress will continue with these schemes.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The collection of house refuse is carried out by the Council in all parts of the district. With the exception of outlying farms, most properties are visited at intervals of approximately 10 to 12 days. Three motor vehicles are used and six men are employed on this service whilst a seventh man is engaged to act as general foreman and

rodent operator and he takes over on refuse collection during holiday and sickness periods. The workmen can take pride in the fact that very few serious complaints were received during the year although they have had to cope with an ever-increasing amount of material to be collected as building development is taking place throughout the area.

Refuse was removed from 90,023 ashbins and 1,263 privy middens and pails were cleansed in 1960; the three vehicles travelled 24,631 miles on this work.

Disposal of refuse takes place on two sites, one known as Tim-penny Quarry, near Over Kellet; and the other in the Old Town's Quarry outside Whittington.

Twenty-one tons of waste paper, rags, metals, etc., were salvaged during the year and the workmen are given a bonus on the sale of these materials.

## HOUSING

New housing development continues in most parts of the district but it is principally in or near the villages of Caton and Halton where estates are being built up. In 1960, 145 new houses were completed 107 of these by private enterprise and 38 by contractors for the Council. These latter completed the Council's present programme and no further building is contemplated by the Council at the present time.

A review of the Council's waiting list revealed that there were still 128 applicants desirous of Council houses; of these 92 stated their preference for a house in Caton or Halton and there were 18 applications for aged persons' bungalows.

At the end of 1960, the number of inhabited houses is given as 2,688 and it is reasonable to state that over one-third of the houses in the District have been built within the past 30/40 years and are of good standard provided with modern amenities. Most of these houses are of brick construction with slate or tile roofs, the external walls being roughcast or cement rendered to be in keeping with the rural area.

Older houses were built with local or near local stone, roofs being of blue slate or grey stone slates and many of these old houses show some traces of dampness owing to the lack of damp-proof courses in the random of rubble walls. Taken as a whole, however, the general standard of housing conditions throughout the district is good. Many



of the owner-occupied properties of the older types are in the hands of people who are house-proud and desire as far as finances will allow, to modernise their homes wherever possible. Without doubt, this fact has some bearing on the number of applications received for Improvement Grant from owner-occupiers.

The rents of these older types of houses vary and in many cases are very low. The present high cost of building labour and materials throws a great financial strain on owners of these houses but it has been found that very little difficulty is met with when owners are requested to carry out repairs.

Owners are still being encouraged to take advantage of the financial assistance available by Improvement Grants and this has lead to numerous enquiries throughout the year with the consequent demand on officers' time. No alteration has been made in procedure regarding "Discretionary Grants" and all "Grant" applications are submitted to the Public Health Committee before a decision is made by the Council. Thirty-six applications were received during the year and approval was given to 12 Discretionary Grants and 23 Standard Grants. Work was completed on 23 houses for Standard Grant and 6 Discretionary applications, one of which involved the provision of a new unit of accommodation. In order to bring their premises up to the standard required by the Act, some owners went to considerable expense but the modernisation of older properties is a worthwhile task and one which should continue to be encouraged.

As a result of action under the Housing Acts, 7 houses were demolished and 22 persons from 9 families re-housed. Three other families, involving 11 persons, were also re-housed from Individual Unfit Houses.

**INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES**

Number of premises inspected during the year ...	...	...	106
Number of visits made for the purpose ...	...	...	182
Number of premises found not in all respects fit...	...	...	43
Number of premises rendered fit by informal action ...	...	...	39
Number of houses demolished ...	...	...	7

**SHOPS ACT**

Almost the whole of the shops in the area are small domestic businesses where employees are members of the proprietor's family and no action has been necessary during the year.

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

### (a) Meat Inspection

There are two licensed slaughter-houses in the district and both are situated in the village of Caton. Following the survey required, it was decided that neither of these premises could be brought up to the necessary standard at a reasonably economic cost and it is hoped that both premises will go out of use in the near future when the new slaughter-house to be built in Lancaster is completed.

Much of the meat consumed in the district is now purchased outside the area, either from Lancaster or Morecambe, and the number of animals slaughtered in the district has gradually fallen during the year. Details are given below of the activities in this respect and all animals slaughtered have been examined which has necessitated the making of 197 visits. The quality of the stock killed is reflected in the small amount of meat and organs which it was found necessary to condemn.

### Number of Animals Slaughtered and Examined

	Cattle exclu'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	13	Nil	Nil	719	3
Number inspected ... ..	13	Nil	Nil	719	3
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:—					
Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned..	1	Nil	Nil	28	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ...	7.7	Nil	Nil	4.2	Nil
Tuberculosis only:—					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cysticercosis ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

## Particulars of Meat Condemned

*All Diseases except Tuberculosis:—*

Carcases : Sheep	...	...	2	} Total weight 116 lbs.
Livers : Heifer	...	...	1	
Sheep	...	...	28	

*Tuberculosis only Nil.*

### (b) Other Foodstuffs

Regular routine visits are paid to other food-preparing premises and shops. As these are mostly small family businesses, the standard of cleanliness is high and foodstuffs are handled with greater care than in many larger premises.

Owners of foodstuffs have requested the examination of various items during the year and it was necessary to condemn one tin each of peas, beans and four large cans of plums.

In addition, several large consignments of dressed chickens were examined and in all 2,876 carcasses weighing 7,800lbs. were found to be unfit for human food and voluntarily surrendered.

## MILK AND DAIRIES

The bulk of the milk produced in this area is removed to dairies outside the district where it is either pasteurised before re-sale or used in the manufacture of cheese or condensed milk.

Pasteurised milk is retailed in some parts of the district but almost all untreated milk sold locally is obtained from Accredited or T.T. herds. The pasteurised milk is obtained from wholesalers in Lancaster and all dirty bottles are returned to these dairies for cleansing and sterilising.

Milk supplied to schools in the area is either pasteurised or obtained from T.T. herds and is regularly sampled by members of the County Medical Officer of Health's Staff.

As a result of sampling 51 specimens of milk it was found that *Brucella* organisms were found in the milk of three cows. These were removed from the herds and slaughtered, but in no case was *Tuberculosis* found.



## SCHOOLS

Facilities such as hot water for washing purposes and modern sanitation are still lacking in some of our schools but it is pleasing to report that some progress has been made during the year.

A new secondary modern school at Hornby was used for the first time after the summer holidays and a new school for juniors and infants was ready for use at the end of the year at Tatham Fells. Additional accommodation and facilities were in course of building at Leck and Arkholme, and a new junior and infants' school was being planned for Hornby.

## RODENT CONTROL

One man is employed on this work and his duties combine work under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act with those of foreman over the Refuse Collection Service.

The work includes the inspection of agricultural buildings, business premises, private dwellings and Council Tips and Sewage Disposal Works. Contracts for the treatment of premises, particularly farms and shops are entered into wherever possible but private houses are given free treatment as and when required. It is known that at least two private operators are working in the area and they have contracts with quite a number of farmers to treat their premises.

Sewerage systems are baited and poisoned twice yearly in accordance with the Ministry's policy and refuse tips are kept under very strict observation and treated when necessary.

Set out below are details of the work carried out under the Act:

TYPE OF PROPERTY			
	Agri-cultural	Non-Agricultural	
		Dwelling Houses	All Other
No. of properties inspected ... ..	117	265	49
Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections) ... ..	657	166	109
No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :—			
Rats : major ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
minor ... ..	41	6	10
Mice : major ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
minor ... ..	12	23	14
No. of infested properties treated ...	53	29	24
Total treatments carried out (including re-treatments) ... ..	657	166	109
No. of “Block” control schemes carried out ... ..	4	3	—

## Sewer Treatment

Total number of manholes baited ... ..	101
Number of manholes showing prebait take ... ..	5
Number of manholes showing complete prebait take (one or both days) ... ..	4
Number of manholes showing complete poison take ... ..	3
Number of manholes showing part poison take ... ..	0

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

There are 49 premises affected by the above legislation on the register and 35 visits have been paid to these during the year. No infringements of the requirements of the Acts were found and the co-operation of the managements of the firms concerned is appreciated.









